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MEDIA ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome Home ceremony for ‘Coyote One’ team this Saturday

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Fourteen Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Embedded Training Team ‘Coyote One’ will be honored at an official welcome home ceremony to be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, in the Duke Corning Armory at Camp Rapid.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Brig. Gen. Keith Corbett will be the keynote speakers at the event that highlights the team’s year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit, commanded by Lt. Col. John Weber, deployed in January 2008 with the assigned mission to provide training and mentorship to the Afghanistan National Army and Police and was stationed at various locations throughout the country.

Here is a list of ‘Coyote One’ accomplishments throughout its deployment:

- Conducted more than 500 combat patrols, traveling more than 50,000 miles throughout Afghanistan.
- Provided artillery fire-direction control support for the first indirect fire mission conducted by the 4th Kandak, Afghan National Army.
- Mentored the 1st and 4th Kandak, Afghan National Army, through a professional validation program.
- Trained a commando unit of the Afghan National Army’s 209th Corps, and conducted the first three air-assault missions in the history of the Afghan National Army.

- Designed and managed the construction of one Afghan National Army and three Afghan National Police forward operating bases.
- Managed logistics for the Afghan National Police School, successfully graduating more than 400 Afghan National Police patrolmen.
- Mentored two Afghan National Police districts through a professional validation program.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.